

blacklists regularly, the men say. Lockers in the Western Union office, they also claim, have been opened to be searched for a union card, and the pockets of an operator are always searched when he passes the physical examination prescribed by these companies.

The New York Central has been attempting for weeks to find men enough to keep the wheels turning and because of their failure to get them on offer to arbitrate is expected by the union.

### SERBIA, 80 MILES FROM SEA, ACQUIRES A NAVY

Rome.—Serbian government today acquired a navy for the first time in history, though no foot of Serbian territory is nearer than 80 miles to the sea and the entire country is overrun by enemy forces.

Purchase of destroyer Velika was officially announced by legation here. Velika will be used to escort troop ships carrying Serbian forces from island of Corfu, where they have been recuperating, to Salonika. Each of allied powers will present Serbia with two other units before end of war, giving King Peter nucleus of a navy.

Recent dispatches from Switzerland reported that Swiss, also lacking seaports, were preparing to build merchant fleet to insure supplies of foodstuffs reaching little republic when other nations are at war.

London.—13 lives lost in sinking of armed yacht Aegean and minesweeper Nasturtium by mines in the Mediterranean.

Paris.—In most successful offensive blows delivered by Gen. Petain since crown prince launched Verdun offensive, French troops late yesterday captured 550 yards of German trenches southeast of Fort Douaumont.

War office also announced today that in successful attacks against German positions on slopes of Dead Man's hill during Saturday and Sun-

day French captured 1,000 yards of German trenches to a depth of from 300 to 600 yards.

### U. S. WILL NOT REMOVE TROOPS FROM MEXICO AT THIS TIME

El Paso, Tex., May 2.—Conference between Gen. Scott and Funston and Carranza War Minister Obregon expected to reach a deadlock today.

Instruction from Washington, notifying Gen. Scott that U. S. gov't refuses at this time to discuss at the conference immediate withdrawal of American troops from Mexico, were due to reach border today.

Scott planned to advise Obregon officially of this fact and it was believed Carranza war minister would promptly but politely refuse to discuss any other subject until the problem of troop withdrawal had been settled.

Under these circumstances an immediate adjournment of conference was anticipated.

Gen. Obregon's statement that the entire matter would be referred to Carranza indicates that failure of the conference will be followed by diplomatic action rather than by military operations and renders less likely any break.

Date for withdrawal of American troops and details of co-operation with Carranzista troops while they stay in Mexico expected to be fixed up later by Sec'y of State Lansing and Mexican embassy at Washington.

At El Paso interventionists were trying to bring about a situation which will make an armed clash inevitable.

General belief here is that they will fail unless hot heads among the American or Mexican armies permit a clash to occur which will be so serious as to render peace impossible.

In meantime both Mexican and American armies are inactive. At some points along line taken by punitive expedition forces are only a few miles apart. No alarm is felt here